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Albampton

Tuberous Rooted Begonias

Unexcelled for Shady Spots
in the Garden

For variety of beautiful forms and types, with a wonderful color range unexcelled and perhaps unequalled by any other garden plant, Albampton Tuberous Rooted Begonias are in a class by themselves.

Moreover, Albampton Tuberous Rooted Begonias will thrive in shady places where it is practically impossible to get other flowers to grow. They grow equally well in garden beds, window or porch boxes, or in pots, their normal blooming season being from May to November. They are not good house plants as they will not bloom satisfactorily from November to April which is their natural resting period.

Most people are familiar with the Giant Single Smooth Edge and Frilled Edge types which have been obtainable for quite a number of years, but great strides have been made in recent years in developing new types, most of which can be obtained in separate colors, glistening pure white, yellow, orange, blush, pink, rose, salmon, scarlet, crimson and deep blood red.

The Single Frilled Begonias are a very pretty class, with the edges of the petals nicely frilled giving them a charm which the smooth petaled varieties do not have.

Crested Single Begonias have a crested growth on each of the four petals which give them a curious appearance. The crested growth sometimes is different in shade or color from the basic color of the flower thus producing some very pleasing effects.

By far the most beautiful however, are the various double-flowering types. Some look like very double giant Gardenias with flowers often seven inches in diameter. Others are of perfect rose shape with beautiful cupped petals, while others have the form of a loose Tea Rose with incurving petals. There is a very lovely blush with pink shade which when fully open looks like a Pond Lily.

One of the most charming types of rare beauty is Double Rose Bud a deep rose pink of perfect rose form. Still another wonderfully fine variety is Marmorata which is perfectly double, rich orange shade, mottled with lighter spots. Double Picta is of perfect Camellia shape, the color being rich dark rose with distinct pink spots.

The Daffodil, or Narcissus flowered type, comes in mixture only at the present time. These have very large basic petals with a large cup or trumpet much resembling a Giant Trumpet Daffodil. Still another very new type is the Duplex which has the appearance of two flowers, one superimposed on the other.

The Lloydii, or Hanging Basket Begonias, are particularly useful for porch baskets and make a very fine showing with their drooping branches literally covered with flowers.

The finest of all Albamont Tuberous Rooted Begonias, we think, are the double Frimbriated

type. This blossom looks like a giant Carnation from five to even eight inches in diameter. It has several times the number of petals of the most double Carnation, the edges of the petals are finely frilled or pinked giving the entire flower a charm combined with brilliant coloring that beggars all description.

Albamont Tuberous Rooted Begonias are easy to grow, in fact they are just as easy to handle as Geraniums. They produce an uninterrupted succession of bloom throughout the summer, throwing a spray of blossoms at every leaf joint. Being such prodigious producers of flowers they must be supplied with plenty of plant food and moisture to keep them growing.

There are several ways in which you can grow Albamont Tuberous Rooted Begonias. Growing them from seed is a long tedious proposition which requires painstaking care and exacting conditions not usually available to the average home gardener. We therefore advise the purchase of the dormant tubers during the winter or early spring or started plants in May or June.

Dormant tubers may be started any time after the middle of February depending somewhat on climatic conditions where they are to be bedded. They must under no condition be planted in the garden until all danger of frost is past. It is usually safe to allow from eight to ten weeks from the time of starting to the time of setting out in the garden. When ready for setting out the plants should preferably just be showing color. Many people and most florists make the mistake of starting the tubers too early with the result the plants become pot bound which severely checks their growth so they are more likely to ripen off when bedded out than to give the wealth of bloom during the long summer season which they will give if in the right condition at time of transplanting into the garden.

Dormant tubers can be started in shallow boxes in the cellar, in hot beds with mild heat, in greenhouses, or in cold frames. In the last three cases they should be shaded since the sun easily burns the tender young shoots. For starting use a light garden loam mixed with an even quantity of leaf mold. If your garden soil is rather heavy use one quarter garden soil, one quarter clean coarse sand, and one half leaf mold well mixed together. If you use flats space the bulbs three inches apart each way, or if you use pots, a three inch pot is large enough for the average bulb. Be very careful to get the tuber right side up. The rounded or convex side is the bottom while the concave or side showing an irregular cavity is the top.

Press the tubers firmly into the soil so that the top is even with the surface or at most not more than a quarter of an inch below it. Start in a temperature of 45 degrees to 50 degrees. Water as necessary, but do not get the soil soggy, nor allow it to dry out. The slower and sturdier the growth, the finer will be the display of flowers in the garden. After the plants are well established give them weekly applications of weak manure water, but under no circumstances use fresh manure nor anything but cattle or sheep manure.

The plot where you plan to have your Tuberous Rooted Begonia bed must first of all have shade most of the day, and likewise be protected from strong winds. The soil should be well enriched with a four or five inch layer of old rotten barnyard manure over which 16% Acid Phosphate has been spread at the rate of one pound to ten square feet. These dressings must be thoroughly incorporated with the soil to a depth of nine inches. Then smooth the bed, spread ten pounds of bone meal per one hundred square feet, rake it into the soil lightly and give the bed a thorough

soaking. Next day plant your Begonias spacing them fifteen inches each way. Set the plants an inch deeper than they stood in the pots or shallow boxes in which they were started. Keep the bed moist at all times and repeat the feeding operation with a top dressing of Bone Meal or Vigoro every three weeks at the rate of one pound to ten square feet.

The flower sprays appear at every leaf joint. These sprays usually have three flowers of which the center or most beautiful flower is the male, while on either side will be a much smaller flower, usually single carrying seed pods on their stems which identify them as the female flowers. As soon as these female buds are large enough for you to distinguish them they should be removed, thus throwing all the strength into the male flower which will grow much larger, have a stronger stem and last approximately three weeks in good condition. If you do not remove the female flowers before they are pollenized then all three flowers will drop off in a few days and only the seed pods remain to develop. All dead flowers and stems should be promptly removed from the plants.

Albamont Tuberous Rooted Begonias are fine for cut flowers. They make beautiful centerpieces when spread on ferns laid in shallow dishes—preferably large ones, or in bowls. They are likewise most attractive as individuals in bud vases.

Probably one of the most economical bedding plants in which you can invest is the Albamont Tuberous Rooted Begonia, due to the fact that with proper care they will usually last from twelve to fifteen years, thus making them even cheaper than Geraniums.

Considering the wealth of blooms of gorgeous and brilliant colors their freedom from insects and diseases, combined with ease of

cultivation Albamont Tuberous Rooted Begonias are as essential for the shady sections of the garden as Geraniums are indispensable for sunny beds.

Albamont Tuberous Rooted Begonias may be planted directly into the beds where they are to be grown. In this case the dormant tubers should be spread out on wet moss or peat from two to three weeks before setting out. If kept in a warm place with the moss continuously moist, they should show shoots about an inch long, and the started bulbs should be set in the bed prepared the same as for started plants, the tubers being set so as to just cover the shoots.

They can likewise be grown as potted plants but great care must be taken not to let them get root-bound. They should be shifted from three inch into four and one-half inch pots and as soon as the roots touch the sides of the pots they must again be shifted into six inch with a further shift into eight inch if necessary. Weak liquid manure water or a light feed of Bone Meal or Vigoro will be beneficial to potted Begonias.

Probably the most important item in prolonging the life of the Tuberous Rooted Begonias is proper winter storage. When the plants have been cut down by the frost in the autumn they should be dug up leaving on roots and soil. Spread them in a dry airy shed or cool cellar where the temperature runs between 40 degrees and 50 degrees and as the stems drop off and the tubers ripen, store them in boxes of dry soil until wanted again for starting in the spring. If the plants have grown in pots simply set them in a frost-proof cellar and let them remain perfectly dry without any water whatsoever during the winter months. In the spring take the tubers out of these pots and handle as previously outlined.

There is probably no other flower at the present time which offers so much reward in beauty and brilliance as Albamont Tuberous Rooted Begonias. They should be planted by the hundred in every garden because they are the only means of making the shady and usually barren places in the garden equally as beautiful as the sunny places.

Our collection of Albamont Tuberous Rooted Begonias is unexcelled and we have no hesitancy in saying we can give you the finest range of colors and types at the very lowest prices. Place your order now and be assured of enjoying their wonderful beauty in your garden next summer. In September 1933 and September 1934 we exhibited our Albamont Tuberous Rooted Begonias at the Eastern States Exposition at Springfield, Massachusetts, where they received a great deal of admiration. In the Autumn Show held at the Horticultural Hall in Boston, Massachusetts, we received a Silver Medal for our display of these flowers, and again the flowers aroused the keenest interest. When we tell you that the Albamont strain is a superior one, we feel we are not over-rating its merit.

The prices for the Dormant Bulbs are \$2.50 per dozen, post paid and \$3.50 per dozen for the started plants, f. o. b., Campton, New Hampshire. The Dormant Bulbs can be purchased during the early spring months; the started plants about June 1.

ALBAMONT GARDENS

Campton, - New Hampshire